BURGLARY REPORT DELAYED BY F.B.I.

Police in Denver Not Told of Raid on Socialist Workers Party for Eight Days

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DENVER, July 29—Officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington delayed for eight days earlier this month the decision to report to the police here that one of the bureau's paid informer had burglarized the Denver office of the Socialist Workers Party, according to a Federal offical familiar with the matter.

The decision in Washington to allow Theodore Rosack, the head of the bureau office here, to tell what he knew to the Denver police came on July 14, one day after the informer, Timothy Redfarm, was arrested in connection with an unrelated burglary of an east Denver home.

The bureau's possible involvement in and subsequent reaction to the Socialist Workers burglary is under investigation by the district attorney here and Justice Department lawyers in Washington. One official suggested today that the bureau's decision to come forth had resulted from its fear that Mr. Redfearn might tell the police about the burglary in an attempt to have the other charges against him reduced.

Investigators and others knowledgeable about Mr. Redfearn and his activities said today that, although his theft of hundreds of documents from the Socialist Workers on July 7 had not been directed by the F.B.I., the dual inquiries were focusing on how much the bureau, and particularly John Almon, the agent to whom Mr. Redfearn reported, learned about it after the fact and why they kept their knowledge from the police.

Similar Burglary in '73

Sources also disclosed that while Mr. Redfearn was an F.B.I. informer he carried out a similar burglary of the Socialist Workers quarters in late 1973, and that although he gave the stolen documents to the bureau his responsibility sor that crime was never made known to the police.

A Federal district judge in New York City yesterday ordered the bureau to produce its files on Mr. Redfearn's five-year career as an informer and on the most r cent burglary of the Socialist Worker quarters. The documents are to be given to party lawyers tomorrow, shortly before Mr. Redfearn is scheduled to give a deposition in connection with the party's lawsuit aginst the Government.

An F.B.I. spokesman in Washington said he would have no comment on any aspect of the iRedfearn case, and Mr. Almon:s attorneY, Ja:e2 Clark, declined to return a reporter' telephone call. But through interviews with various officials here, the following account of recent events was obtained:

At about 4:30 A.M. July 7, Mr. Redfearn sawed through a padlock on the party's office door and removed four large cartons of party iiles.

Later that day, he called Mr. Almon, and told him what he had done.

Mr. Almon allegedly examined the documents in the trunk of Mr. Redfearn's car, which Mr. Redfearn had parked in front of the bureau's office here, but did not then take possession of them. Mr. Almon reportedly notified Mr. Rosack, who telephoned his superiors in Washington to seek advice on whether to report the crime.

It was not until July 15 that the Washington office directed Mr. Rosack to make the report. The following day, the Denver police recovered what they believed were all of the files stolen ni days earlier by Mr. Redfearn.

Unknown to the police, howeiver, Mr. Redfelarn had withheld from them some 50 pages of stolen Socialist Workers documents, and later that day he mailed them to Mr. Almon. Sources said today that those documents were now held by the Justice Department, and that Mr. Almon's failure to return them to the party had also become a facet of the investigation.

'Pressure' Over Fee

Mr. Redfearn, a 25-year-old former graduate student, lat'r told friends that he had been "under pressure" from the bureau to "produce" in order to retain his $400-a-month informer's fee.

Mr. Redfearn is currently on probation in connection with a third, nonpolitical burglary he committed early last year. According to court records here, he has been under a pshchiatrist's care for several years for "intermittent depression."

In the case of the Dec. 31, 1973, burglary of a house here o. 'ied by severa al party members, sources said that documents removed from the house by Mr. Redfearn had been photocopied by Boyd Adsit, wh: preceded Mr. Almon as Mr. Redfearn's controlling agent, and who has since e retired from the bureau. That burglary under study b) "'-'i investigators as well, although it, too, was undertaken by Mr. Redfearn on his own.

One law enforcement official, said that Mr. Redfearn passed a polygraph examination administered recently on behalf of Dale Tooley, the district attorney here in connection with the July 7 burglarY.:L The S.W.P. chapter here and its youth arm, the Young Socialist Alliance, together have about 60 members. Mr. Redfearn, who had becn informing on those two organizations since 1973, declined to talk about his activities.

The Justice Department is currently investigating a number of burglaries allegedly carried out by F.B.I. agents in the New York City area in 1972 and 1973. The Redfearn matter, however, is t'" fiist case to become a part of that inquiry in which burglaries were committe by a paid bureau informer, rather than a special agent.